



Stove Prairie

February 11, 2010



Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Save Haiti!—News from the K-1 Class

So far we have collected \$121.97 in donations! One more week before we hope to give much needed help to the people of Haiti. We have put donation boxes in classrooms and office. We will send the money to the Red Cross. Thank you! ~ *Kindergarten/First Grade Class*

Art News

The Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Lincoln Center is just around the corner ~ February 24 through March 25.

The following Mountain Schools students will have artwork exhibited:

Livermore—**Ellie Martinez, Kylee Klutke, Tabatha Marion, and Alicia Sipes**

Red Feather Lakes—**Jessica Laubach, Lily Tews, Zachary Allen, and Brodie Tews**

Stove Prairie—**Saleen Rowell, Jenna Schmidt, Emma Bowen, and Tannis Downing**

Congratulations to these fine artists! A reception for the artists and their families will be held on March 10, 4:00-6:00pm in the Lobby Gallery at the Lincoln Center.

I hope all families in the Mountain Schools will have a chance to visit and view the marvelous art created by PSD students. ~ *Brenda Colter*

Important Dates—Mid-Quarter Reports go home today

Friday, February 12

- Please **Return Automated Calling Surveys**
- Deadline to submit Teacher Evaluations
- PSD Deadline to submit School of Choice Applications for Elementary—*all online now*

Monday, February 15

- No School—Teacher Collaboration Day

Tuesday, February 16

- 7:00pm—PSD Elementary Honor Choir Concert at Lincoln Center—
Thank you to Micaela Benjamin, who will represent Stove Prairie with her beautiful voice!

Thursday, February 18

- Last day to contribute to the K-1 **Save Haiti Fund**

Friday, February 19

- 8:30—CLPMS Counselor visit to 5th Graders for 5th Grade Registration

Attachments

- Red Feather Lakes Update from Mr. Kind, Principal—*on page 2*
- Safety Letter from Mrs. Bishop, Counselor / Wellness News from Mrs. West, P.E.

The Staff



February 11, 2010

Mountain School families,

With all of the recent activity regarding Red Feather and the Mountain Schools, I wanted to take a minute to share what has been taking place in the district. Last Friday, February 5 the Facility Design Feasibility Committee met for the final time to complete their charge. At this meeting the committee voted unanimously to not support the charge of moving students from Red Feather to Livermore. Then on Tuesday evening Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools and committee chair, Kevin Hahn, presented a recommendation to the Board of Education. The committee's three charges and recommendations presented to the Board follow:

1. **Charge:** Find a location for Lab School for Creative Learning, acting on the 2006 district recommendation to close the Washington facility. **Recommendation:** Relocate Lab School for Creative Learning to Moore Core Knowledge Elementary School.
2. **Charge:** Move Early Childhood and other programs out of Fullana and Barton to Moore, Bauder, Riffenburgh, and/or other elementary schools. Temporarily close Fullana and Barton for different programming considerations. **Recommendation:** Move Early Childhood administration to Bauder Elementary School. Relocate 9 early childhood classrooms from Fullana and Barton to the following:
 - Relocate 1 classroom to each of the following elementary schools: Lopez, Laurel, Putnam, Tavelli, Kruse, and Timnath;
 - Relocate 3 classrooms to Riffenburgh Elementary
3. **Charge:** Consider moving Red Feather Lakes Elementary students to Livermore Elementary. **Recommendation:** Do not move Red Feather Lakes Elementary students to Livermore Elementary.

The Board of Education also took action Tuesday on an Executive Limitation (E.L.) policy, which now requires the Board of Education to make decisions regarding closure of schools. The board members had discussed the policy at several previous meetings.

The board adopted revisions to E.L. 2.3, Financial Conditions and Activities, to state the following: Among other things, the Superintendent shall not cause or allow the District to (9) Substantially change the principal educational purpose of a school by closing or repurposing it, or by consolidating or combining it with another school.

The Feasibility Committee began studying facility options in October, held seven public input sessions, and met for more than 60 hours before making its recommendation to the Board on Tuesday. Dr. Hahn thanked the parent and community members and staff who served on the committee for their work. The committee will present its final report to the Board of Education February 23.

"It was a huge task, very well done, and I think the outcome demonstrates what an effective process it was," said Board of Education President Nancy Tellez.

For more information, email info@psdschools.org or visit the Feasibility Committee Web page [here](#).

So as we look ahead, we will continue the work for this school year and begin plans for the upcoming year. I want to personally thank all of the community members, parents, staff and students for their continued support of the Mountain Schools. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach me.

Patrick Kind
Principal
PSD Mountain Schools
488-6553

PSD Weather-Related Delayed Start Plan

Should the need arise due to bad weather and/or questionable road conditions, PSD may implement a delayed start of all schools by 2 hours. The following is important information for parents regarding delayed start, as well a refresher on school closure and early release plans.

Delayed Start of Schools Due to Weather, Road Conditions

Should the need arise, the delayed school start time will be 2 hours, for all schools.

- **Delayed start decision:** A decision about delayed start will be made by 5:30 a.m.
- **Parent notification:** visit the PSD website at www.psdschools.org or tune in to local radio or television stations to find out about delayed start the morning of the day in question. Please do not call schools, district offices, or broadcast media. No announcements by media and on the website means all schools are open as usual.
- **Bus pick up times:** Buses will pick up students at bus stops 2 hours later than regularly scheduled pick-up times. Buses will make every effort to be punctual, although traffic and road conditions may increase travel time. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly in anticipation of a potentially longer wait time. Parents are encouraged to walk their children to bus stops and avoid walking along the roadways. Sidewalks are safer even if these areas are not cleared of snow.
- **Drop off and arrival times:** Parents dropping off students, students who walk, and students driving to school should arrive 2 hours after their regular arrival times. Please do not arrive earlier.
- **Kindergarten and Early Childhood:** Morning-only kindergarten programs and morning Early Childhood programs are cancelled when there is a delayed start schedule. Afternoon kindergarten and afternoon Early Childhood programs will run on normal schedules. Full-day kindergarten and full-day Early Childhood programs will start 2 hours later than normal.
- **Before- and after-school childcare:** B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will open as normally scheduled for students attending these programs. If your childcare provider is other than B.A.S.E. Camp, contact them for start times.
- **School dismissal times:** School dismissal times will remain on regular schedules, including bus drop-off times in neighborhoods and parent pick-up times at schools.

School Closures Due to Weather, Road Conditions

If schools are closed due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, parents should tune in to local radio and television stations, or go online to PSD's website at www.psdschools.org to find out about school closures the morning of the day in question.

Media outlets are informed if schools are closed. No announcements by the media or on the PSD website means all schools are open as usual.

A decision about weather-related school closures is made by 5:30 a.m., and media outlets are notified immediately.

Parents should NOT call schools, district offices, or broadcast media.

The PSD website (www.psdschools.org), radio and television stations will provide information about PSD school closures. We will notify Spanish radio stations KGRE 1450AM and KJJD 1170AM for Spanish speaking families.

Note: When PSD schools are closed, B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will be closed.

Early Release of Schools Due to Weather, Road Conditions

If the weather forecast suddenly changes to adverse conditions, PSD may put into action an early release. Parents are urged to please develop a plan for the possibility of your student's early release to your home. B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will not be available after school if schools release students early.

When PSD makes a decision to close schools earlier than the regularly-scheduled release times due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, parents will be notified by phone. **In addition, media outlets (listed above) and the PSD website (www.psdschools.org) also will communicate early release information.**

Parents are urged to make sure family contacts and telephone numbers are current at your child's school for such an emergency. For additional information about the policy and procedures, contact Scott French, PSD director of transportation, at 490-3555.

Stay Connected! Update Your Phone Numbers and E-mail Addresses!

Poudre School District communicates with parents, staff and community members in a variety of ways to ensure that everyone receives the latest PSD information regarding weather-related closures, emergency information, district initiatives and school-specific information.

In order to contact you directly, we need your **current phone numbers and e-mail address**.

To receive important messages via phone:

PSD's automated phone system is used to contact parents about non-emergency school events (such as parent/teacher conferences) and about emergency school and district situations.

Parents may list two phone numbers to be used with the automated phone system -

One phone number is listed as the primary contact number for general information and a second phone number is used to contact parents about emergency situations. Please know that BOTH phone numbers are called in school or district-wide emergency situations in order to deliver important information to parents.

Please make sure your child's school has the two phone numbers you want listed for general information and emergency calls. You may update your phone number(s) by contacting your school's office manager.

To receive important messages via e-mail (and Stove Prairie School notes):

PSD has an online e-mail subscription system. If you want to sign up to receive school and district e-mails or you need to update your e-mail address, please go to the **E-mail Alert Sign-up** link on the PSD Web site at www.psdschools.org to input your current information.

After you sign up, you will receive the following information via e-mail:

- School closure information related to weather and other situations
- PSD emergency information
- Important information specifically from your child's school such as emergency information, calendar changes, and school newsletters

Quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives and current news and events

PSD NEWS

Poudre School District is studying options for funding small schools and encourages ALL parents, PSD staff and community members—from small AND large schools—to attend and provide input at community forums in January and February. *

With many elementary and middle schools under-enrolled and PSD facing major budget reductions, PSD is studying funding options for schools. **Four Board of Education led community forums will be held to help PSD understand the community's values about funding small schools.**

PSD is asking the community to engage in a big picture discussion about options related to funding small schools:

- Funding small schools through separate funding sources, or
- Closing schools and combining students into larger schools.

All parents, PSD staff, and community members are invited to attend one of the following forums (information and format will be the same at each forum):

- **7 – 9 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 23, at Fort Collins High School's auditorium, 3400 Lambkin Way**

PSD Board of Education directors and staff will open each forum. The Jan. 26 and Feb. 23 forums are being held during Board of Education work sessions. The forums serve as a method for the Board to engage the community in a discussion about funding small schools.

PSD has announced the process and reductions schools and district departments will be making as we plan the 2010-11 budget. For more information, visit the [PSD Budget Development web page](#).

For more information, email info@psdschools.org or call 482-7420.

Kindergarten registration scheduled for February 11

Your child's education adventure is around the corner! Kindergarten registration for students entering school in PSD in fall 2010 is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2010. *Note: parents can register children at the Stove Prairie Kindergarten Orientation Meeting at 2:00 on February 9. (See page 1 of this note.)* Registration will be held from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., at all elementary schools (please check the schedule, available at school offices or on the PSD Web page at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration," for deviations). Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 15, 2010, are eligible to register.

On the day of registration, parents should bring their child's birth certificate (original or certified preferred), immunization records, and emergency contact information.

There is no tuition for half-day kindergarten programs; full-day programs are \$2,100 per year; inquire at your school for specifics. *Note: no fee at Stove Prairie—full days, four days per week.*

The first payment is due at the time of registration; the remainder is due in nine monthly installments from August 1, 2010 - April 1, 2011. Full and partial scholarships may be available; check with the school for eligibility requirements.

One-way transportation is provided for kindergarten students attending a half-day program who live more than one mile from their neighborhood school. Round-trip transportation is provided for students in an all-day program who live more than one mile from school. Transportation is not provided for School Choice students (those who attend a school outside their attendance areas). *Note: See Mr. Kind regarding transportation arrangements for Stove Prairie students.*

School Choice in PSD: How it works, deadlines approaching

PSD's School Choice program allows families to select the school that best meets their child's educational needs, on a space available basis. Round-trip transportation is the responsibility of the parents for School Choice students.

Note: See Mr. Kind regarding transportation arrangements for Stove Prairie students.

Nearly 70% of PSD families choose to send their children to a **Neighborhood School**, the school located in the attendance area in which they live. Neighborhood schools teach PSD's rigorous standards-driven curriculum, along with gifted, enrichment, and accelerated options.

Specialized Schools offer a different curriculum, focus area, or method of instructional delivery than neighborhood schools.

Referral Programs and Schools range from Early Childhood (birth to age 5) programs to alternative secondary programs and schools (grades 6–12) for students who require a non-traditional learning environment to be successful.

Online Options are available for our digital natives in grades K–12 offering a high-quality, highly interactive 24/7 educational option for students.

Apply for School Choice Online

The online School Choice application is now available at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration," which may be accessed from a home computer or any computer with Internet access; a public use computer is available at the PSD Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., or any of the district's schools. The first consideration deadlines for 2010-11 are:

- **January 29, 2010, for secondary (grades 6-12)**
- **February 12, 2010, for elementary (grades K-5)**

School Choice applications may be submitted after the first-consideration deadline until the first day of class at the beginning of the school year of requested enrollment.

For the 2010-11 school year, there has been a policy change in regard to the application process for multiple birth siblings. To learn more about this change please view policy JFBA at www.psdschools.org.

PSD begins budget process, state announces major K-12 education cuts

Colorado is facing major fiscal challenges, and PSD is monitoring all announcements and information as the budget development process for 2010-11 begins.

What is PSD's current budget situation?

The State of Colorado has announced it will likely rescind (take back) \$3.3 million already budgeted to PSD for this school year. PSD has set aside this amount in anticipation of the state's action.

In November, Gov. Ritter presented an early proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11 that included a \$260 million, or 4.6% reduction to K-12 education when compared to the current school year (FY 2009-10).

Because of the state's budget proposal, PSD is planning for three possible levels of reductions—\$5 million, \$8 million, or \$12 million.

"We are preparing for several scenarios, and all involve budget cuts from last year to this year," says Jim Sarchet, PSD assistant superintendent of business services. "With each state report, we are able to fine-tune information."

Following are key dates for development of PSD's 2010-11 budget:

- **October/November:** Board of Education established priorities for PSD budget
- **November:** Governor releases preliminary budget to Joint Budget Committee
- **December:** Colorado quarterly economic report released
- **January:** Legislative session begins, and budget discussions continue through April/May
- **February:** Colorado rate of inflation announced (currently projected to be negative)
- **March:** PSD presents preliminary budget to Board of Education
- **February – May:** PSD revises budget assumptions/priorities, based in information/input
- **March:** PSD announces preliminary Student-Based Budgeting (SBB) allocations to schools
- **March:** Colorado quarterly economic reports released
- **March - May:** Budget discussions held during PSD employee negotiations
- **Late April/early May:** Legislature adopts K-12 funding in the School Finance Act
- **May:** PSD Administration presents preliminary budget to Board of Education
- **June:** Board action to adopt 2010-11 budget

For the latest in-depth information, please visit the PSD Web site at www.psdschools.org under District Updates, "Budget Development Process."

Superintendent asks community to deliberate about small schools

In a report to the PSD Board of Education Dec. 8, Superintendent Jerry Wilson announced plans to stop considering Riffenburgh and Lopez elementary schools for a small high school location. Dr. Wilson also clarified that currently PSD has no plans to close Cache La Poudre Middle School, or Lopez, Moore Core Knowledge, Riffenburgh, or Stove Prairie elementary schools.

"At the same time, it is important to realize that given the reality that population trends and funding factors can change, the district will be reviewing elementary and middle school capacities and may consider any school for closure," said Dr. Wilson, in his board meeting report.

With many elementary schools under-enrolled and PSD facing major budget reductions, PSD needs to study options for supporting smaller neighborhood schools. **Dr. Wilson announced that the Board of Education and district will begin holding community engagement sessions in January to help PSD understand the community's values related to supporting smaller neighborhood schools.**

"It is very important that we come together and address the pressing issue of funding small schools or closing some schools to combine students into larger elementary or middle schools," said Dr. Wilson.

At these sessions, PSD will provide information about the problem and the impact on education, including how different school sizes affect the ability of the school to offer programs for students in areas like art, music, and physical education in elementary schools.

Then, PSD will ask the community to engage in a big picture discussion about two options:

1. Funding small neighborhood schools through separate funding sources, or
2. Closing schools and combining students into larger schools.

"By stepping back and having this broader discussion, the Board of Education and district are acknowledging the expressed public interest in valuing neighborhood schools," said Dr. Wilson. "As we approach challenging financial circumstances, the community will help the district understand to what extent it values neighborhood schools."

Feasibility Committee Action: The PSD Facility Design Feasibility Committee that began meeting in October will continue its work to address exclusively: A location for the Lab School for Creative Learning; **whether** to close Red Feather Lakes Elementary and move students to Livermore Elementary; and moving Early Childhood and other programs out of Fullana and Barton to Moore, Bauder, Riffenburgh, and/or other elementary schools.

Small High School to be Studied: Given the changing dynamics of high school enrollment and need for further study, PSD will convene a group to study programming needs for specialized high school programs that could be housed in existing schools or independently.

Visit the PSD Web site for dates, times and locations for the public deliberation meetings the Board of Education and PSD will host to help understand community values related to funding small, neighborhood schools: www.psdschools.org under District Updates, or call 970-490-3427, or email info@psdschools.org.

Flu season is here, help control the spread of germs

Flu season is here and it is time to start practice prevention strategies. You can help us in the following ways:

- Encourage your children to **practice healthy eating, sleeping and exercising habits.**
- **Teach children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Teach children to cover coughs/sneezes and not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.
- **Clean surfaces and objects that your child touches frequently**
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Children who are sick while at school *will be sent home.*
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs.
- **Get your family vaccinated** for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu when vaccines are available.

We continue to work closely with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and other city, county and state agencies to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. **Please make sure you are on the PSD Parent E-mail Alert list (www.psdschools.org), so we can provide you with new information as it becomes available.** This also assures you receive email updates from your child's school. Additional H1N1 flu information and resources can be found at www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636).